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US army forced to release WikiLeaks case documents

FORT Meade, Maryland (AFP) - The US Army published dozens of documents online Wednesday in the case of WikiLeaks suspect Bradley Manning, after media outlets and other groups had criticized a lack of transparency.

The move came in response to multiple Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests related to the case against Manning, who stands accused of passing a trove of secret files to Julian Assange's anti-secrecy WikiLeaks website.

Among the organizations that demanded access to the pre-trial documents were The Washington Post, CNN and the Center for Constitutional Rights, which all said they had been prevented from informing the public about the

A \$11,000,000 project: AAA is ready to extend its General Aviation Apron



Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is ready to start with the US \$11,000,000 project: The General Aviation Apron Extension.

In the presence of members of the Parliament Chris Dammers and Clarisca Velasquez and other guests, Mr. Peter Steinmetz, CEO of

AAA together with the Minister of Tourism & Transportation Mr. Otmar Oduber and AAA's Director Operations Mr. Jurgen Benschop unveiled the project sign and gave start to the General Aviation Apron extension project.

Continued on pg 2

Pope bids farewell to huge crowds



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI on Wednesday admitted "stormy waters" during his papacy as he gave his farewell speech in St Peter's Square before tens of thousands of pilgrims on the eve of his momentous resignation.

A smiling Benedict looked relaxed as his white "popemo-

bile" bore him through the famous plaza where more than 150,000 people had gathered under a bright, cloudless sky for his historic sendoff.

A woman clutching a rosary wiped away tears as the octogenarian Benedict passed. One of the hundreds of cardinals and bishops in their red and purple-sashed

robes could also be seen tearing up.

Some in the throng held up huge banners with messages such as "Benedict, we'll miss you!" and "The pope is the heart of this city!" or waved the Vatican's yellow and white flag at the pontiff's last public event.

Continued on pg 5

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AAA is ready to extend its General Aviation Apron

Continued from pg 1

Aruba Airport Shaping The Future

SOUTH SIDE APRON DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE 1
STARTING MARCH 2013 COMPLETION NOVEMBER 2013



South Side Apron Development

Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

in co-operation with Schiphol International B.V.

Schiphol Group

Aruba Airport Shaping The Future

SOUTH SIDE APRON DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE 1
STARTING MARCH 2013 COMPLETION NOVEMBER 2013



New Road Markings, Runway guidance LED lights and Apron LED Lights

Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

in co-operation with Schiphol International B.V.

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The General Aviation Apron extension project entails the platform area increase of 21000m² which represents 78% more parking space. This translates in approximately 25 more parking positions for private airplanes.

New led flood lights and

led taxi way lights will be placed. This will represent significant energy savings for the airport. The construction of a new parallel taxi way that complies with ICAO clearing standards is also included in the project, along with the construction of 2

new runway exits to the general aviation apron and a Helipad for the use of helicopters.

"The rising demand for more General Aviation space will now be addressed and we're very excited to provide extra service to our clients. In 10 months we will be able to welcome more passengers to the island through this facility. Something that both we as airport and I'm very sure that our clients are looking forward to!", said AAA CEO Mr. Peter Steinmetz.

The pictures illustrate the project designs and also the unveiling moment when Mr. Peter Steinmetz together with Mr. Otmar Oduber and Mr. Jurgen Benschop unveiled the sign indicating the start of this project.

Courtesy visit by Dutch official after meeting in St. Maarten



Photo depicts Peter Davidse, Drs. Andy Lee, Joep Damoiseaux and Mrs. Kathelijne Cammermans

Annually, all the countries within the Dutch Kingdom meet to discuss topics of treaty. Just recently a meeting was held in St. Maarten where they discussed the preparation, implementation and parliamentary procedure of relevant treaty for each country in the Dutch Kingdom.

Among others, they discussed future treaty on different areas having to do with customs, taxes, investment and the protection of investments, aviation, etc. Mr. P.

Davidse represented Aruba at this important meeting.

Following the meeting in St. Maarten, Director of the Treaty section of the Dutch Ministry of External Relations, Mr. J.F.M.A. (Joep) Damoiseaux, together with the person in charge of the Dutch Caribbean countries, Mrs. Kathelijne Cammermans, paid a courtesy visit to Aruba's Director of the Department of External Relations, Drs. Andy A. Lee.

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New Labor Law will protect "on call" employee



The government is focusing on the protection of the employee in the proposed changes in Aruba's Civil Code as this relates to labor contracts. One of the changes in the labor laws have to do with the phenomenon of the "on call" arrangement of employees.

It is important to indicate that, in essence, an on call contract is intended to be something sporadic and could never be designed to have a certain frequency. However, what we have seen is that more and more this phenomenon is becoming the norm when a company needs an employee at the last moment.

The reality is that the majority of the on call jobs began in the casinos and gradually this spread to our hotels, restaurants and stores. Due to the loopholes in the law this abuse has been allowed. Most of the persons who work under this arrangement are usually unable to afford a lawyer to defend them, or are simply ignorant of their rights or do not know where to turn to get out from under this arrangement.

According to the Minister of Labor, the amount of persons working under these conditions have been doing so for many years, and is an alarming large number of employees.

A job contract must have three important elements: the job, the obligation to pay a certain salary, and a relationship of authority. In the event of an on call arrangement, neither party has an obligation to call the other.

After analyzing the numerous cases of this form of labor abuse in different sectors of our work community, the government has noted that employees under these circumstances have no opportunity for growth, hence their quality of life becomes very unstable and stagnant.

With the changes in the labor laws, an employee on call may work no more than 20 hours per week or a total of 80 hours per month. The moment he/she surpasses this amount of hours, automatically the on call contract must be considered a labor contract with all its rights, privileges and guarantees.

Linear Park and Plaza Turismo to open officially on March 17th!

The government has announced that Sunday, March 17th will mark the official opening of the first phase of the Linear Park. On the occasion, all the kiosks on the park will open their doors and the monument on the Plaza Turismo will also be officially inaugurated.

The day will be replete with a variety of activities on the Linear Park. There will be an activity at Governor's Bay with miniature boats, a sport expected to gain in popularity as a section of the Linear Park has been especially designed for fans of this particular sport expected to become a lot more active in the near future.

In the past, pleasure boats were loaded at this site, in front of the Governor's Home. This will no longer be

possible. A special ramp has been built above Surfside for that purpose, and in the second phase of the work this will be completely developed. There will be a pier where autos and trailers may park making it much easier to load and unload boats.

Along with the miniature boat activities at Linear Park, Santa Rosa will also have their open market for everyone to enjoy. Ibis will also be there with sport activities, the cycle track will also be put to use by bikers as well as the walk path and of course the ocean for swimmers.

The government remarked that despite some delays in completing the first phase of the Linear Park and some criticism, they are delighted to be able to present this great project for our community to enjoy.

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A unique, one-time artistic experience this Friday evening at Aruba's National Library



Noted island artist Nelson Gonzalez is collaborating with three other individuals to stage a poignant and thought-provoking evening of art, film, music and poetry for the opening of "Milk Drops" Collective Art Exposition. The "incident," a one-time multimedia interlude, begins at 6:00 PM in the exposition room of Aruba's National Library on the George Madurostraat in Oranjestad.

Filmmaker Patrick Thompson, who was raised in the U.S. but now lives in Holland, attended an event in Curacao which dramatically traced the cultural origins and impact of breastfeeding on regional society. There, the artist observed an obvious allegory between the nurturing aspects of the milk of the mother to child as is the milk of Holland to their island territories in the Caribbean.

Along with composer/musician Andre Le Grand and poetess Tuesday Irving, both from Aruba, they are restaging this event with Aruban women demonstrating the

community of caring among those who breastfeed.

Patrick filmed in Curacao and will record Friday's event. This will be integrated into a documentary in progress about traditions and culture of Aruba and Curacao. The event is punctuated by an exposition of photos by Patrick, which have been artistically manipulated by Nelson Gonzalez. The artwork will remain on display in the library's exposition room for two weeks after the opening night.

This collaboration of four unique, creative talents should be quite interesting to witness. More information on the upcoming event can be found on their Facebook page: Milk Drops Collective Art Exhibition.



2013 donations by Friends of the Handicapped Foundation



Since the beginning of 2013, the volunteer visitors who comprise the foundation Friends of the Handicapped, have been campaigning for the 26th year to raise funds for local groups helping the island's physically and mentally disabled along with other worthy causes. Funds were raised by donations every Sunday during Mass at the Casa Del Mar and Aruba Beach Club, and two special events, their Superbowl Sunday Lottery and the fabulous Valentine's Day Sweetheart's Dinner/Dance.

The proceeds from their efforts, approximately 50,000 Aruban florins, were distributed to nine Aruban foundations on Tuesday evening, February 26 at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, where FOTH annually conducts their fundraising Sweetheart's Dinner Dance.

Foundations receiving donations are selected through the advisement of CEDE Aruba, a non-profit organization which administrates and

finds funding for foundations and social projects. Each donation is designated to be applied to a specific need.

This year the recipients were:

- Respeta Mi, which battles child abuse,
- Ambiente Feliz, a home for mentally challenged adults,
- Cas Marie, a therapy and social center for those with Alzheimer's and Senile Dementia,
- Edmund Harms Foundation, which provides home-care for terminal cancer patients,
- Ambiente Nobo, a home for the mentally challenged,
- Hacienda and Eliezer rehab centers for those battling substance abuse
- Stichting Trampolin pa Trabou, dedicated to job training and mainstreaming for the mentally challenged
- Mi Por, which provides therapy, programs and counseling for youngsters

with Cerebral Palsy, and their families

Representatives of the various foundations expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the continuing annual efforts of FOTH volunteers.

They are, President Art Stark and his wife Alma, Phil Solomon, Sal and Maryann Lacarruba, David Ulmschneider and his wife Tana, Rich and Marie Szempruch and Huguette Vatiquette. They are ably assisted throughout the year by Anoushka in the executive offices of the Casa Del Mar. Friends of the Handicapped volunteers, despite advancing age, still dedicated their short time in Aruba to "giving back" to the community of the island that has become their "home away from home."

New volunteers are most welcome to help them continue their important work. For more information, visit their website: <http://www.ffoth.org/>

UN struggling to keep up with worsening Syria war

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The war in Syria is worsening so fast that the United Nations and aid agencies can not keep pace with the refugee and humanitarian fallout, top officials warned Wednesday.

"Even with us working full tilt, the scale is outpacing whatever we do on the response side," UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos told reporters after briefing the Security Council on the 23-month-old conflict.

Amos said only \$200 million out of \$1.5 billion pledged at an aid donors conference last month had been received.

She added that the \$1.5 billion estimate for UN humanitarian work in and around Syria for the first six months of the year was now "out of date" and more would be needed.

"This is a crisis that is completely stretching our capacity," she said. "The way that these figures are going up on an almost daily basis, the rising cost of this crisis, mean that it is not business as usual."

Amos said the first two months of the year had been a "game-changer" in Syria with President Bashar al-Assad's forces and the opposition stepping up hostilities.

The UN estimates more than 70,000 people have been killed since March 2011 but the toll has shot up this year.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Gutierrez told the council there are now 936,000 registered refugees in countries around Syria and the million mark would be hit within weeks.

The figure has grown from 33,000 last April and 40,000 Syrians a week are now crossing into other countries.

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Pope bids farewell to huge crowds

Continued from pg 1

(AFP)--A hush fell over the sea of pilgrims as the pope began speaking.

Benedict drew an analogy between his reign and a miracle recounted in the Bible when Jesus Christ calmed the waters as he was sailing on a fishing boat with his disciples including St Peter -- who is believed by Christians to be the first pope.

"The Lord gave us days of sun and of light breeze, days in which the fishing was good.

There were also moments when there were stormy waters and headwinds... as if God was sleeping," the pope said in an apparent reference to the multiple scandals that have plagued his reign.

"But I always knew that God was in that boat and I always knew that the boat of the Church is not mine, is not ours, but is his and he will not let it sink," the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics told the cheering crowd.

Benedict also said his decision to resign -- which makes him the first pope to do so since the Middle Ages -- had not been an easy one but had been taken for the good of the Church.

"I took this step in full awareness of its gravity and novelty but with profound serenity of spirit," he said, adding: "I will continue to accompany the Church with prayer and reflection."

The frail 85-year-old stunned the world with his

abrupt decision to end an eight-year reign dogged by scandal and Vatican infighting, declaring he was too weak to keep up with the modern world.

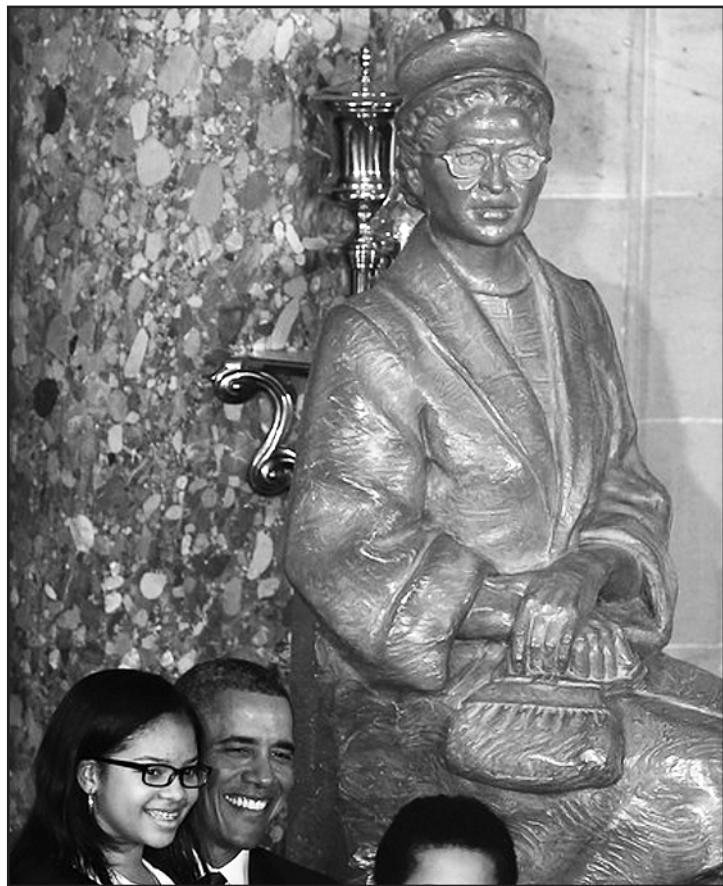
The scourge of paedophile priests and cover-ups by their superiors cast a dark shadow over Benedict's papacy, combined with a longstanding money-laundering scandal at the Vatican bank, which exposed infighting among Benedict's closest allies.

Later Wednesday the pope

followed up his farewell speech with what the Vatican said would be one of his last Tweets: "If only everyone could experience the joy of being Christian, being loved by God who gave his Son for us!" the pope wrote.

The Vatican has said Benedict will receive the title of "Roman pontiff emeritus" and can still be addressed as "Your Holiness" and wear the white papal cassock after he officially stepped down at 1900 GMT today.

'Strength from stillness': Rosa Parks statue unveiled in US Capitol



U.S. President Barack Obama (C) poses with guests following the unveiling ceremony

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus, so it was fitting that her statue unveiled Wednesday by President Barack Obama in the US Capitol depicts her in the position from which she launched a civil rights revolution.

Congressional leaders, dozens of relatives and several hundred guests joined Obama as Parks, represented by a nine-foot (2.7-meter) bronze statue, took her rightful place among the nation's

heroes depicted in Statuary Hall.

The statue is the first of an African-American woman in the US Capitol.

"This morning we celebrate a seamstress slight in stature, but mighty in courage," Obama said in tribute to the woman who, on December 1, 1955 at age 42, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a crowded bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

"In a single moment with the simplest of gestures she

helped change America and change the world," the president said.

James Clyburn, the most senior African-American in Congress, described Parks as "the first lady of civil rights, the mother of the movement, the saint of an endless struggle."

Blacks were freed from slavery 150 years ago when president Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, but it took another century marred by second-class citizenship, racial violence, and voter suppression before the civil rights movement took root, culminating with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"As America shapes its future it struggles with its past -- a past in which equality was our principle but not always our practice," said Democratic Senate majority leader Harry Reid as he noted the country's continuing efforts to "eradicate slavery's unsavory successors: racism and inequality."

"Without the determination and sacrifice of Rosa Parks, this presidency... and so much of the progress we have made to perfect our union would not have been possible. So today a nation pays enduring tribute to the woman who moved the world when she refused to move from her seat."

Parks is depicted in the statue as many Americans envision her: sitting, hands folded across her lap and clutching her handbag, her hair pulled back, and staring steadily out from behind rimless glasses.

But she was no meek woman. She fought hard for her right to vote, fighting a voter literacy test skewed against African-Americans. She later collaborated with civil rights leaders including Martin Luther King Jr and Jesse Jackson, who was at Wednesday's unveiling.

"Rosa Parks was the fire, the igniter of the movement," US Representative Sheila Jackson Lee told AFP.

She pointed to a case now before the Supreme Court challenging a section of the US voting rights law -- a cornerstone of efforts to guard against racial discrimination in states with a segregationist past -- as evidence that more needs to be done.

"I wonder what she would think about this year, when we must still be in the midst of the fight?" Jackson Lee said.

Venezuelan govt denies rift with army at rally

CARACAS (AFP) - With President Hugo Chavez still out of sight, the Venezuelan government denied any rift with the army Wednesday as it led a rally in Caracas to mark the anniversary of a deadly popular revolt.

Thousands of people clad in red rallied in the capital, many wearing shirts bearing the image of the leftist leader, and others holding signs reading "I am Chavez" as they marked the massacre of hundreds of people in 1989.

It was the first rally to be held in Caracas since Chavez, 58, checked into a military hospital in the capital nine days ago after spending two months in Cuba, where he underwent his fourth cancer surgery in 18 months.

"We, the children of our commander Hugo Chavez, feel proud and happy because

we can say that the sacrifice of our people was worth it," Vice President Nicolas Maduro told the crowd assembled at Plaza Caracas square.

"Have no doubt that we will defend the beautiful work of commander Hugo Chavez Frias," he said, with several military chiefs standing behind him.

The dearth of information about Chavez's condition has fueled rumors on the streets of Caracas and on Twitter, but the government has insisted that the firebrand leader remains in charge and that his aides are united.

The rumors last Friday ranged from unusual activity in the military's Tiuna Fort in the capital to discontent within the army over the handling of the president's health.



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Italy gridlock deepens as Europe watches nervously

ROME (AFP) - Italy's political gridlock deepened on Wednesday with bickering between the main leftist party and a new anti-establishment movement, putting off the prospect of a new government soon after elections that have spooked Europe.

Comedian turned populist firebrand Beppe Grillo said his Five Star Movement (M5S) would not endorse the Democratic Party (PD), which won the most votes in the elections on Sunday and Monday but not enough to form a majority in parliament.

"The M5S is not going to give a vote of confidence to the Democratic Party or to anyone else," Grillo, who has channelled the frustrations of austerity-weary Italians, wrote on his blog.

The comment appeared to be a rejection of overtures from the PD, which on Tuesday suggested working with M5S on key measures like slashing government costs and helping Italy's poorest get through a grinding recession.

Grillo said the PD had made a series of "indecent proposals", prompting PD leader Pier Luigi Bersani to hit back with a statement saying: "If Grillo has something to say to me, including the insults, I want to hear it in parliament."

Grillo, who has called for a referendum on the euro and

won a quarter of the vote in parliament, said the PD could ally with Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right coalition for a short-term before new elections would have to be called.

The scandal-tainted Berlusconi, dismissed as a spent force just months ago after 20 years in politics, came in an extremely close second to the centre-left and ahead of the Five Star Movement.

He said waiting until the new parliament is slated to meet on March 15 to begin coalition talks on forming a government was way too long.

"If there is no message of stability before then we risk paying too high a price," the three-time prime minister and billionaire tycoon said in a video message.

Berlusconi has promised to refund an unpopular property tax -- if necessary out of his own pocket -- and has blamed a "hegemonic" Germany for many of Italy's current economic woes.

After initial market panic on Tuesday, investors were more measured on Wednesday, especially after a better-than-expected bond auction in Rome.

European capitals remained nervous however amid fears Italy could turn back the clock on reforms following an election that has been seen as crucial for the future of the eurozone.

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International News

US 'can't dictate' to the world: Pentagon's new chief



WASHINGTON (AFP) - America cannot "dictate to the world" and must work with allies and build relationships with other nations, US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said shortly after being sworn in Wednesday as the new Pentagon chief.

On his first day at the job, Hagel reinforced his reputation as a reluctant warrior as he told an auditorium of civilian officials and military officers that America was a powerful country but could not accomplish its goals without forging strong alliances.

"I've always believed that America's role in the world ... has been one that should engage the world. We can't dictate to the world. But we must engage in the world," Hagel said.

"No nation, as great as America is, can do this on their own. We need to continue to build on the strong relationships that we have built."

Defense secretaries often adopt a tough tone to signal resolve to America's adversaries, but Hagel's comments echoed President Barack Obama's emphasis on extricating the country from a decade of ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

US troops have pulled out of Iraq in 2011 and roughly 66,000 American forces are due

to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014, a draw-down that Hagel will be charged with overseeing.

Hagel told the Pentagon audience that the United States was ultimately a force "for good."

Hagel, 66, took his oath of office at about 8:30 am (1330 GMT) at the Pentagon as his wife looked on, becoming the first combat veteran from the Vietnam conflict to take up the post.

In his remarks to Pentagon employees, Hagel spoke without notes and struck an upbeat tone despite a nasty debate in the Senate over his nomination that saw him struggle to win enough votes for confirmation.

Despite the bitter atmosphere that prevailed at his confirmation hearing, in which he was pummeled by his former Republican colleagues over his statements on Iran and Israel, officials said Hagel would seek to cooperate with Congress.

Although Hagel's opponents failed in the end to derail his nomination, their hostile stance signaled that the former infantryman would have little breathing room when it comes to working with Congress, without the kind of bipartisan support some of his predecessors enjoyed.

Havana says US not allowing visits with 'Cuba Five' member

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba on Wednesday accused the United States of unfairly denying its consular officials access to one of the members of the "Cuban Five" group convicted of espionage in the United States.

Cuban officials said in a statement that for several months they have been denied permission to meet with Rene Gonzalez, 56, who is on probation in the United States after serving a 13-year prison sentence for espionage.

"Since September of 2012, the Department of State has denied all requests by the Cuban Interests Section in Washington to let Cuban diplomatic officials visit Rene," the Foreign Ministry in Havana said in a statement.

Havana said the "deliberate and cruel decision also represents an additional punishment that is added to the already

strict conditions of Rene's supervised release."

Gonzalez was arrested in 1998 along with the other members of the Cuban Five -- Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando Gonzalez.

The five men were found guilty in 2001 of trying to infiltrate US military installations in South Florida and were given long prison terms, ranging from 15 years to life. Gonzalez was released from prison in October 2011.

Cuba has acknowledged that the men were intelligence agents, but says they simply aimed to gather information on "terrorist" plots by Cuban expatriates in Florida -- not to spy on the US government.

In March of last year, the United States allowed Gonzalez to visit Cuba for two weeks to visit his ailing mother.

There has been talk of a possible swap for Gonzalez and the other Cuban agents for US contractor Alan Gross, who is serving a 15-year prison sentence in Cuba. But Washington has rejected a trade.

Gross, 63, was arrested in December 2009 for distributing laptops and communications equipment to members of Cuba's small Jewish community under a State Department contract. He was found guilty at the trial of "acts against the independence or territorial integrity" of the communist-ruled island, and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Cuba has indicated that it is ready to negotiate Gross's release in exchange for the release of five captured Cuban spies held in the United States, but Washington has ruled this out.

Portugal seizes 79 tonnes of meat containing horse



LISBON (AFP) - Portuguese authorities said they had launched fraud proceedings after seizing 79 tonnes of wholesale food and thousands of packaged meals that contained horsemeat despite not being labelled with it.

The 79 tonnes of "meat and meat-based products" were seized in plants that processed, packaged and distributed meat to supermarkets, the govern-

ment's Economic and Food Safety Authority said in a statement.

Authorities also seized nearly 19,000 packets of food "such as lasagne, hamburgers, cannelloni and meatballs" in retail and distribution outlets, said the statement published Tuesday.

Five criminal cases of fraud were opened over the seizures, it added, without giving fur-

ther details.

A vast food scandal has erupted across Europe after horsemeat was found in supposedly beef ready-made meals and burgers in Britain and Ireland.

Among various companies implicated in the scandal, Swiss food giant Nestle last week withdrew dishes destined for restaurants in Portugal, Spain and Italy.



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Health & Living

Olive oil, nuts dietary keys to cut heart risks: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A Mediterranean diet rich in olive oil, nuts, fish, fruit, legumes and wine reduced the risk of heart attacks, strokes and deaths from heart disease by 30 percent, a major new study has found.

The study, published by the New England Journal of Medicine, followed 4,479 people in Spain -- men and women age 55 to 80 -- over a five year period, finding dramatic confirmation of previous observations of such a diet's health benefits.

One group followed a traditional Mediterranean diet supplemented by four tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil a day. A second group followed the same diet, but instead of the olive oil consumed about 30

grams a day of mixed nuts.

Participants in those two groups also ate at least three servings of fruits and two of legumes a day. They also ate fish three times a week and favored white meat like chicken instead of red meat.

They were also strongly encouraged not to eat commercially baked goods, pastries and sweets, and to limit their consumption of dairy products and processed meats.

For those who normally drank wine with their meals, their diet called for seven glasses of wine a week.

Researchers could tell whether the study participants were following the diets by measuring markers for olive oil in their urine or a blood marker for the mixed nuts.

They found that participants stuck to the Mediterranean diets, but that the low-fat control diet led to only small reductions in fat.

"Thus, extra virgin olive oil and nuts were probably responsible for most of the observed benefits of the Mediterranean diets," it said.

Brazil, Gates Foundation sign deal

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazil and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced Tuesday a deal to earmark \$8 million for projects to reduce premature births nationwide.

More than 10 percent of infants born in Brazil arrive prematurely. Brazil is among 15 countries with the highest number of premature births in the world, according to data from the World Health Organization and the Health Ministry.

The main cause of death for infants under the age of seven days is linked to preterm birth.

"We are going to mobilize the scientific community with innovative projects to help the country resolve this problem, with solutions having a global impact," said Carlos Gadelha, a health ministry official as he announced the accord here.

Buchsbaum said that little money has been spent on preventing premature birth, and the process of human gestation is "still a scientific mystery."

Some 52 percent of deliveries in Brazil are done by caesarian section, a percentage that rises to 90 percent in private hospitals, said Maria do Carmo Leal of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.

US study sees uptick in breast cancer in younger women

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The incidence of advanced breast cancer among women aged 25 to 39 in the United States has increased over the past thirty years, a study said.

Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the study found that cases increased from 1.53 per 100,000 in 1976 to 2.90 per 100,000 in 2009.

According to the researchers, that represents an average compounded increase of 2.07 percent per year over the 34-year period.

While that is a relatively small increase, "the trend

shows no evidence for abatement and may indicate increasing epidemiologic and clinical significance," wrote the authors of the study headed by Rebecca Johnson of the Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington.

The statistics used for the study came from three US National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results registries.

The researchers found that the greatest uptick occurred among 25 to 34-year-olds, with progressively smaller increases occurring in older women

After forced sterilisations, Swedish transsexuals seek damages

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Sweden is often hailed as a forward-thinking society promoting equality for all, but transsexuals who had to accept to be sterilised to complete their sex changes are pushing for compensation after a change in the law.

Nova Colliander, a 31-year-old who completed her transformation from man to woman in 2010, says she suffered discrimination when she was irreversibly sterilised as part of the sex change process.

"Beautiful Sweden, with its pretty red wooden cabins... But (the reality is that) forced sterilisations for transsexuals existed until 2013," she says.

"A lot of people want children, and it's crazy to think that we are different than anyone else on this point. We want children just as much as anyone else."

Until last year, the operation was obligatory for transsexuals who wanted their sex change to be officially recog-

nised by authorities, with their personal identity documents reflecting their new gender.

But in December, a Swedish court ruled that the practice of forced sterilisations, which dated back to a 1972 law on sexual identity, was unconstitutional and violated the European Convention on Human Rights.

The ruling was not appealed, and a ban therefore entered into force on January 10.

"We didn't have the right to become parents, we didn't have the right to freeze our eggs or our sperm," explains Love Elfvelin, a 22-year-old who recently had a double mastectomy to become a man, and who will not have to undergo sterilisation to complete the sex change.

The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (RFSL) is now preparing to help transsexuals who were sterilised under the old law to obtain damages.

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Sci-Tech

Smartphones and tablets meet in 'phablet' mania



The Samsung Galaxy Note 8, released just ahead of the congress, trimmed its screen to eight inches to compete with Apple's new iPad mini.

Taiwan's Asus has managed to marry the two devices.

Asus showed off the Padfone Infinity, a five-inch, high-definition screen smartphone that can harness the latest superfast fourth-generation wireless network and which slots into 10.1-inch tablet.

The smartphones of 2013 have to be fast, too, however, as the 4G network, also known as Long Term Evolution, or LTE, expands worldwide.

China's Huawei unveiled a new mobile at the show, the Ascend P2, which it claims is the fastest in the world.

Sharp-cornered and thinner than a pencil at 8.4 mm, the company said it can achieve speeds of 150 Mbps, fast enough to download a two-hour high-definition movie in less than five minutes.

The mobile, which has a more modest 4.7-inch, high definition screen, is powered by a 1.5 GHz quad-core processor and is able to use LTE networks.

Samsung and Apple held more than 50 percent of the sales combined -- 29.0 percent for Samsung and 22.1 percent for Apple.

Finnish manufacturer Nokia, once the leader of the mobile phone world, tried to lure shoppers with lower prices.

Nokia released two Windows Phone-operated smartphones -- the Lumia 520 and 720 -- to be offered with pre-tax price tags of 139 euros (\$189) and 249 euros respectively.

But Nokia also offered the Nokia 105, the kind of mobile handset people use mostly for making telephone calls, for just 15 euros.

BARCELONA (AFP) - The "phablet" phenomenon is taking the mobile world by storm.

Manufacturers at the world's biggest mobile fair in Barcelona, Spain released a slew of outsized smartphones that can barely fit in one hand and tablets that have shrunk dramatically.

Further blurring the lines between smartphone and tablet, a selection of the latest tablets can be used as phones, albeit somewhat awkwardly.

At the February 25-28 World Mobile Congress, the Ascend Mate by Chinese manufacturer Huawei, the world's number three smartphone manufacturer, was the champion with a vast six-inch screen.

Not far behind in the smartphone screen real estate contest, rival Chinese handset maker ZTE released its Grand Memo boasting a 5.7-inch display.

South Korean giant LG trailed with its Optimus Pro, at 5.5 inches.

More than 120 million tablets were sold worldwide in 2012, up 50 percent from the previous year, and shipments of smartphones are predicted to hit one billion this year according to global consultants Deloitte.

But the size of tablets is shrinking.

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Yahoo! fuels fresh debate on telecommuting

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Telecommuting, a growing trend in the US workplace, is coming under fresh scrutiny following news that Yahoo! is curbing the practice.

The trend of working from home has been gaining steam for decades, as part of a workplace evolution which allows greater family-work balance and saves energy and commuting costs.

An internal Yahoo! memo from chief executive Marissa Meyer posted this week by the Wall Street Journal said employees will be required to come to their offices to "feel the energy and buzz" of the workplace.

Asked about the memo, a Yahoo! spokesman said Tuesday, "We don't discuss internal matters," but essentially confirmed the news by saying: "This isn't a broad industry view on working from home --

this is about what is right for Yahoo!, right now."

The shift counters the overall trend: some 53 percent of US employers offered flexible work options in 2012, according to the Society for Human Resource Management. That compares with 48 percent in 2007.

A 2011 report by the US Labor Department found 24 percent of employed Americans reporting that they work at least some hours at home each week.

The trend is particularly noticeable in IT firms, where companies take advantage of technology to have virtual access to what they would have at the office.

Cisco Systems, which develops virtual private networks for remote access, said 40 percent of its employees are not in the same city as their manager, and the average employee telecommutes two days a week.

IBM, another strong telework advocate, said 29 percent of its 128,000 employees participate in a flex-work or work at home program, and that in 2011, in the US alone, this saved 6.4 million gallons of fuel and avoided more than 50,000 metric tons of carbon emissions.

The move by Yahoo! "goes against the grain of where a lot of organizations are going today," said Cindy Auten, general manager of Mobile Work Exchange, a public-private partnership that promotes telework.

Some analysts say Yahoo!'s move could be positive, even if it drives away those seeking a more flexible environment.

"Yahoo! is in a creative innovation race and they need to get back to their roots," said John Challenger, chief executive of the consultancy Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

COMICS



PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

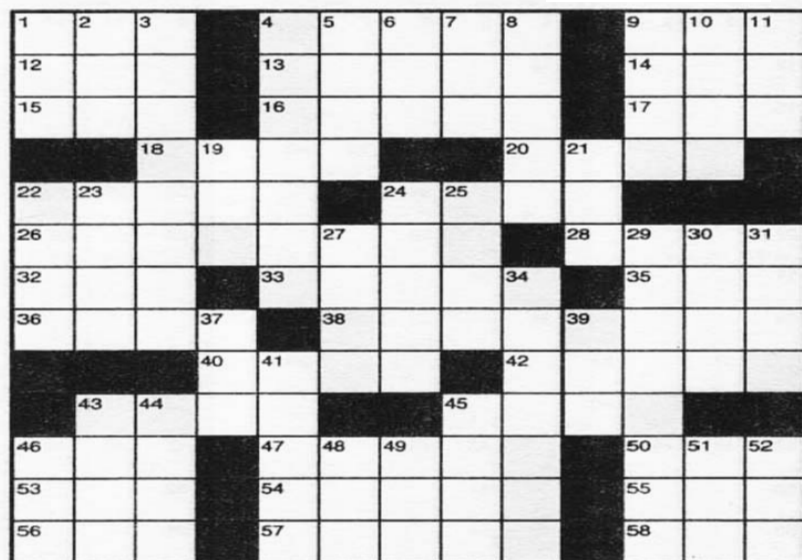
1. Height (abbr.)
4. Bed linen
9. Request for Friskies
12. Pro
13. Famed cowboy star
14. Aggravate
15. Vague schedule info (abbr.)
16. Remove a lid
17. Behave or print preceder
18. Large containers
20. Narrative poem
22. ___ de menthe
24. Impolite
26. Eases
28. School dance
32. "Honest" President
33. Had supper
35. Environmental agcy.
36. Vamp Theda
38. Coffeecake topping
40. Dec. 25
42. Depleted
43. Penn's pronoun
45. Actress Bonet
46. Teacher's group (abbr.)
47. Dashboard button

DOWN

50. Bill
53. Columnist Landers
54. Korean, e.g.
55. Sheep she
56. Football scores (abbr.)
57. Furnishes
58. Poor mark
1. Towards the stern
2. Tennis hit
3. Wayfarer
4. Fried lightly
5. Attila's followers
6. Common abbr.
7. Notable period
8. Did office work

9. Mariah Carey's nickname
10. Rock's Clapton
11. Yr. divisions
19. Parisian pal
21. Zip
22. Grouch
23. C&W singer McEntire
24. Leases
25. Internet surfer
27. Credit card name
29. Ushered to anew
30. Milk carton instruction
31. Germinated grain
34. Blueprints
37. Cutting tool

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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

Important
Telephone
Numbers

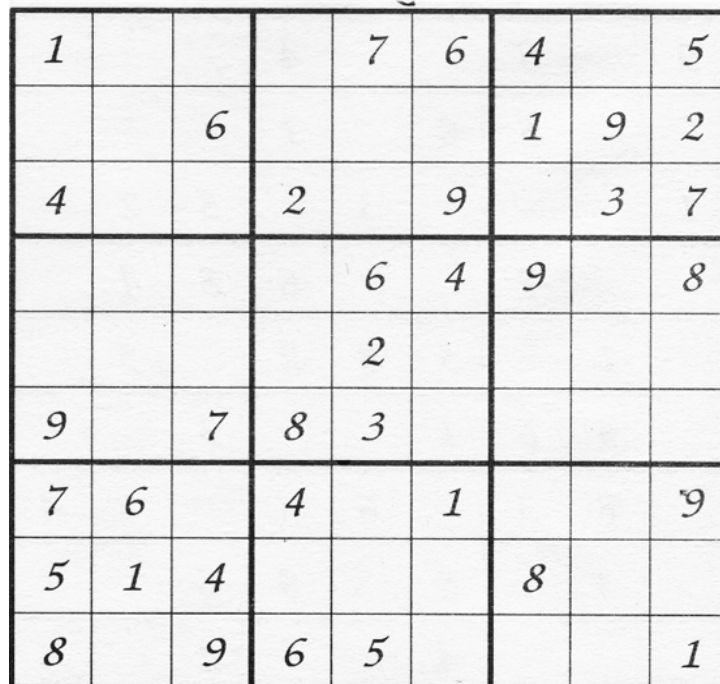
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	4	5	9	6	7	8
5	9	8	7	6	4	1
6	7	5	1	8	9	4
9	1	2	5	8	7	6
4	5	6	1	2	8	9
8	7	6	9	1	5	4
2	6	1	8	9	7	5
5	8	9	4	7	6	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

US warned over budget chaos as big cuts loom

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US was warned Wednesday that its chaotic budget politics could lead to a new credit downgrade as the country readied for the impact of steep automatic spending cuts that begin in two days.

Fitch Ratings said Washington could lose its top-flight AAA credit rating not because of the implementation of the \$85 billion in austere "sequester" cuts, but because the deficit policy battles are undermining confidence in the government.

It pointed to the next fight, over a new six-month spending plan that, if not agreed by the end of March by warring Democrats and Republicans could force a shutdown of the government in April.

Politicians and markets were resigned to the sequester cuts that begin from March 1, forcing heavy pullbacks in government spending on defense and other areas.

Economists, including Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke, say the sequester could trim another 0.5 percentage point or more from economic growth this year.

The White House has warned of a "perfect storm" of widespread employee furloughs, nationwide airport delays and less secure US borders, and says pre-school programs could be canceled, teachers laid off and public services curtailed.

Alice Rivlin, a Brookings Institution economist and formerly a top government budget expert, said the sequester cuts will "endanger the economic recovery that is finally picking up speed."

Investors seemed unfazed as US stocks gained for a second straight day Wednesday.

But analysts said that the budget impasse had contributed to the key indices being stuck in neutral for the past five weeks, after the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Indus-

trial Average had come close to beating all-time highs.

"It does look like that sequestration is going to happen," said David Levy, a portfolio manager at Kenjol Capital management.

"Investors may be taking some gains ahead of the uncertainty, stepping aside, but they don't sell the market on the uncertainty of sequestration."

Investors are only moderately concerned, said Hugh Johnson of Hugh Johnson Advisors.

There was still a possibility that the sequester cuts could be avoided or softened.

Congressional sources said Wednesday that President Barack Obama will hold talks with congressional leaders Friday at the White House, including Republican Representative John Boehner and Senator Mitch McConnell, and Democratic Senator Harry Reid and Representative Nancy Pelosi.

A deal on more moderate spending pullbacks within the first weeks of March could mitigate most of the sequester's impact as govern-

ment furloughs and other cut-backs will only be really felt beginning in April.

But it appeared that the sequester talks were being commingled with budget extension talks, with the same issues at the center: Republican demands for spending cuts against Democrats' insistence on revenue increases as well.

The two sides have to come up with another six-month "continuing resolution" by March 27 to keep the entire government funded.

Past that, the Congress and White House have another deadline, May 19, to raise the US borrowing ceiling or face, for the third time in two years, the possibility of defaulting on its debt.

Fitch said it does not expect a repeat of the debt ceiling crisis of August 2011, which prompted Standard & Poor's to strip the United States of its AAA rating.

But Fitch said that failure this year to raise the ceiling "in a timely fashion" would "likely" lead it to downgrade the US as well.

Oil prices mixed after US inventory data

LONDON (AFP) - World oil prices were mixed on Wednesday after the United States reported a smaller-than-expected rise in its crude stockpiles and as markets tracked uncertainty over Italy's political future.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in April dipped four cents to \$112.67 a barrel in late London deals.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for April climbed 40 cents to \$93.03 a barrel.

The US Department of Energy on Wednesday said that American crude inventories rose by 1.1 million barrels last week, less than half the amount predicted by analysts.

"This was lower than the 2.4 million expected, suggesting stronger demand" for crude in the world's biggest oil consumer, said Fawad Razaqada, an analyst at GFT Markets trading group.

Crude futures had fallen on Tuesday, with Brent closing down \$1.73 a barrel, amid uncertainty stemming from Italy's inconclusive elections and expectations of fresh in-

creases in bulging US crude inventories, dealers said.

"It would appear that financial investors are currently withdrawing from the market amid concerns that reforms could be halted in the wake of the Italian elections and that the euro crisis could flare up again," Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch said on Wednesday.

Investors were wary after Italy's inconclusive elections gave a key role to an anti-austerity party that has ruled out joining a coalition government, setting the stage for a drawn-out stalemate.

"The outcome of the elections was even more confusing than we had anticipated," the Mediobanca investment bank said as Moody's warned it might downgrade Italy's debt rating, saying the vote result "increases the risk of political paralysis and prolongs political uncertainty."

The rating agency added: "This week's elections have implications well beyond Italy itself and are, indirectly, credit-negative for other pressured euro area sovereigns."

Mexico teachers union boss arrested for corruption



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Elba Esther Gordillo, the head of Mexico's powerful teachers union and an influential political figure, has been arrested for allegedly embezzling millions of dollars for personal use, including plastic surgery and shopping sprees, authorities said.

Attorney General Jose Murillo Karam said Gordillo was arrested Tuesday at the airport of Toluca, some 60 kilometers west of the capital, and was poised to appear before a judge.

Speaking to reporters, Murillo Karam said the Finance Ministry's financial analysis unit detected unusual activity that led to the discovery of multiple operations worth some 2 billion pesos (about \$156 million) from accounts belonging to the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE).

Authorities uncovered a complicated network of transfers, with authorities discovering the money went towards plastic surgery, shopping at luxury stores in the United States - including \$3 million at one department store alone -- as well as the acquisition of property and even artwork.

In addition, \$2 million dollars of union money made it

into accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Gordillo, 68, has headed the union, which has some 1.4 million members and is among the largest in Latin America, with an iron fist since 1989. Known for her luxurious lifestyle, she was secretary general of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) -- which regained power last December -- from 2002 to 2005.

With the strength of the union behind her, she went on to form the New Alliance Party after her split with the PRI.

Gordillo's contribution to Felipe Calderon's tight presidential victory in 2006 made her a privileged partner of the former government with a strong influence over Mexican education matters.

With the swearing in of President Enrique Pena Nieto last December, marking the return to power of the PRI after a 12-year absence, Gordillo found herself at odds with Education Minister Emilio Chuayffet.

Gordillo's arrest, along with three others, comes a day after the enactment of education reform in this country of nearly 112 million where 64 percent of children complete elementary school.



-- Although African-American family income has increased over time, white families have accumulated much more wealth. By tracking families, the study found that the gap between white and African-American family wealth increased from \$85,070 in 1984 to \$236,500 in 2009. Many Americans still believe that racial inequality is related to individual behavior, choices, character, marriage and child bearing, says Thomas Shapiro, IASP director. But homeownership has been the biggest cause of racial wealth disparity, followed by income, the study found. In the past 25 years, education has failed to be the great equalizer that many expected.


YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

D	E	B	S	I	L	T	A	M	A
A	W	E	C	L	A	R	A	S	A
N	E	A	R	E	S	U	R	F	A
K	R	U	P	A	S	E	N	D	E
	E	M	T		E	A	G	L	E
I	L	S	A	O	H	M	S	L	O
F	I	E	L	D	M	A	R	S	H
F	E	E	I	S	L	E	I	D	L
Y	U	K	O	N		D	E	F	
	K	N	I	T		M	I	N	O
H	O	R	S	E	R	A	C	E	I
R	U	M		R	O	M	A	N	P
S	R	S		N	E	R	D		S

Dr. Henk Marsman outlines the health issues of Aruba's water


Our Products
Taiwan RO, Melody Ionizer, Luxury Delphi Ionizer and the Taiwan RO

Taiwan Reverse osmosis system




AWG 895

Melody Ionizer + RO system



AWG 4290

Delphi + RO system




AWG 5890

TAIWAN RO WITH MINERAL FILTER SYSTEM

This filter improves the qualities of clean water by adding necessary for proper human development and health minerals, such as Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Potassium and others readily found in many natural mineral waters.

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-Calcium (Ca):	75 mg/l
-Magnesium (Mg):	20 mg/l
-Potassium (K):	10 mg/l




The Systems

--Many consider Aruba's drinking water straight from the tap one of the finest tasting waters in the world. Produced by distilling sea water, it is remarkably clean and free of impurities. At the production plant, WEB, a mix of minerals, which are completely natural and the body requires, are added to provide a uniquely pleasant flavor. A number of health specialists, however, have contended that Aruba's fine water does lack the essential minerals occurring naturally, which are usually obtained from "harder waters" originating in mountain streams that feed lakes and

reservoirs.

Dr. Henk Marsman, founder of Aruba Health Distributors, addressed this issue during a concise presentation at his new Healthy Lifestyle outlet in the Portofino Mall, just behind the CMB Loan Division on Irausquin Boulevard in Oranjestad, on Tuesday afternoon, February 26.

Citing the findings of studies done by a Dr. Frantisek Kozisek in 2004, Professor Dr. M. Peterlik in 2009 and 2013, Dr. S. Kahn in 2010 and several by Dr. C. Yang, who has a Masters in Public Health, he explained how extremely low levels of calcium,

magnesium and potassium can have detrimental health effects in the long term.

"Those on vacation on Aruba for only a week or two do not have an issue with our water," explained Dr. Marsman, "but after three months on Aruba, it will begin to effect the body."

Dr. Kozisek had published a report for the WHO on the effects of soft drinking water. Dr. Peterlik's articles proved that drinking water with high calcium content reduces cancer, particularly lung cancer. Dr. Yang's findings also supported this premise, how essential calcium is for the prevention of cancers; Dr. Kahn posited that the lack of calcium in the water can precipitate kidney stones. Long term treatment of chronic kidney stone patients has shown that taking calcium supplements only contribute to the problem, but when the mineral is obtain naturally in food and water, it helps prevent them.

An independent study by the National Testing Laboratories Ltd of Ohio, which was commissioned by Dr. Marsman, evaluated the mineral content of Aruba's tap water. Though it contains a smattering of minerals in very small amounts, it is completely lacking the two minerals magnesium and potassium, and only contains 4.694 ppm of calcium, which is way below what is considered necessary for the human body to absorb through its drinking water, daily.

"There are two ways to obtain minerals," explained Dr. Marsman, "you can either eat them or drink them...The current western diet lacks sufficient minerals, and supplementation by drinking water is a must. Dr. Kozisek also warns against using low mineral water for the preparation of food and baby formula." The low mineral content of the water could actually leach the necessary nutrients from the food when it is cooked in it. The long-term ingestion of demineralized or distilled water can also rob the body of naturally occurring nutrients.

"When purchasing bottled water, it is important to read the labels and the mineral con-

tent," he informed. A popular and expensive brand of water from Belgium contains only bare traces of these essential minerals. Generally, the constant consumption of bottled water also contributes to another problem: the accumulation of waste plastic bottles, so Dr. Marsman does not consider it the best solution. After surveying the various bottled waters sold on Aruba, he endorses the JUMBO brand, which is the house brand of Super Food Market. It has highly acceptable levels of essential mineral content.

Another issue regarding bottled water is the time the water is contained in plastic bottles, and if they stored or transported in high temperatures, allowing the bottles to be warmed. This results in them releasing the chemical Bispheno A (BPA) into the water. Studies have proven that BPA is harmful to the brain, breast and prostate, and in some cases, cause the early onset of puberty in females.

As a dentist, Dr. Marsman often saw the effects of the low-mineral water on teeth and the bones of the jaw. Island doctors have expressed a concern over the high incidence on Aruba of osteoporosis, and the effect of drinking low mineral water from birth.

Dr. Marsman has opened

his center on Irausquin Boulevard to address many health issues, which contains an auditorium where he intends to conduct seminars on nutrition and healthy cooking practices. Here he has on display what he considers the best solution to the issue, water ionizer systems which can be installed into the kitchen sink to provide the necessary nutrients and a specialized faucet to be used only for drinking water. "The cost of putting these minerals into our water at the plant would hike up water costs considerably," he pointed out. "This is also wasteful, as we only want it in our drinking water, we don't need them to wash or cars, flush the toilets or bathing. Installing an ionization system in the individual home to provide mineralized drinking water or for use in making formula is the most efficient option, in my opinion."

Aruba Health Distributors offers varying ionization and Reverse Osmosis systems for different budgets, and a computerized faucet for adjusting the mineral content. An outline of the systems and details of the health benefits, as well as the findings of the reports cited can be found on their website: www.mineralwater-aruba.com, or call 587-3096 to arrange an appointment and demonstration.

H&M makes Paris fashion debut

PARIS (AFP) - Swedish cheap chic fashion giant H&M takes to the catwalk at Paris fashion week for the first time yesterday, hard on the heels of its Helen Hunt Oscar coup. Best supporting actress nominee Hunt bucked the trend for haute couture by teaming an enormous diamond necklace with a strapless navy blue H&M gown at last Sunday's ceremony. The show, featuring 25 outfits for autumn/winter 2013, will take place in the spectacular surroundings of



Paris's Rodin Museum dedicated to the works of French sculptor August Rodin. The museum was a "mythical place" perfectly suited to the chain's plan to make an impact and provide an element of surprise, said a statement, adding the show could be viewed live on the chain's website www.hm.fr. H&M has seen rapid recent expansion, including in China, with over 2,500 stores worldwide by the end of May 2012. Last year it opened stores in new markets Bulgaria, Mexico, Latvia, Malaysia and Thailand. The city is playing host to nearly 90 ready-to-wear collections and presentations over nine days, wrapping up on March 6.

Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco

Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.



Stunning sunset



All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba.

Reservations can be made by calling 586- 0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-la-trattoria.com, where you can



Osso Buco with Risotto

peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

NEW YORK (AFP) - Batman may be able to save the world, but he'll lose his sidekick Robin -- who in his current incarnation is his son -- in the upcoming Batman Incorporated comic book series. DC Comics said the caped crusader's acrobatic young assistant, Batman alter ego Bruce Wayne's son Damian, will die in Wednesday's issue number eight. "This master theme of damaged and ruined families was nowhere more in evidence than in the creation of Damian, the first 'Son of Batman' to be acknowledged in the canon," series writer Grant Morrison said in a statement. "In many ways this has been Damian's story as much as it has been the story of Bruce Wayne and it's a story that had its end planned a long time ago -- for what son could ever hope to replace a father like Batman, who never dies?" The good news for those who might miss Robin is that this is the comics universe and characters who are killed can easily return. Even a previous incarnation of Robin was killed and resurrected before. "You can never say never in a comic book," Morrison told the New York Post. "Batman will ultimately always have a partner."



Buster's is back in Eagle Beach at Trop Casino



The home of the Beer Pong drinking game



A whopping cheese nachos w/chicken dish

Fans of Aruba's favorite sports bar are happy to hear that Buster's Garage has relocated to the restaurant/bar space inside Trop Casino. Now Eagle Beach resort guests have a great place for a bargain-priced

there is a game going on out there somewhere, we'll find it."

With giant screens everywhere throughout the joint, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Aside from their all day menu of game-watching favorites, they also feature a hearty breakfast menu. The "Grand Slam Platter" includes eggs any style, pancakes or waffles, bacon, juice, fresh made home fries with coffee or tea for only \$9. Lunch and dinner menus reflect the same moderate pricing

with required sports bar standards such as chicken wings, club sandwiches, burgers and a heaping helping of nachos, averaging \$9; pizza and main courses range from \$11 to \$15.

Aside from the games and the gambling, patrons can ex-



Threesome, takes care of the entertainment

breakfast or a bucket of beer while rooting for the team of their choice.

Buster's has that great, homey feel of settling in to enjoy a game with buddies, greatly due to the warmth and enthusiasm of owner Rusty. He takes pride in making patrons feel welcome. "If somebody really needs to watch their home team on the field, we'll be happy to put it on for them," he confidently assured us. "We have 3 satellite dishes with separate packages to pick up every station imaginable. If

pect great entertainment three nights weekly with one of Aruba's most popular trios, "Threesome." There are also some wild times getting acquainted with Rusty's Beer Pong, the Drinking Game of Champions. Win or lose, players always end up with a smile on their face.

This family friendly place, with air hockey and video games for the kids, along with a special menu for young ones, is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM for late night snacking and fun.

Sport

Motorcycling: Lorenzo breaks Pedrosa grip at tests



SEPANG (AFP) - World champion Jorge Lorenzo ended rival Dani Pedrosa's unbeaten streak in pre-season MotoGP testing after pipping the fellow Spaniard on Wednesday at Malaysia's Sepang circuit.

Three-time MotoGP runner-up Pedrosa had swept to the top of the timesheet across the first three-day session early this month, and also led the pack here Tuesday on his lightning-fast Honda.

But Lorenzo clocked 2 minutes 00.282 seconds on a scorching hot second day of testing, and consistently dipped under the 2 minutes 1 second mark despite "playing with the settings" across his 58 laps.

Although Pedrosa worked hard throughout a cooler afternoon session, he could not better his earlier time which was 0.369 seconds off the pace.

Lorenzo, 25, said he was close to his best of 2 minutes 00.19 seconds at Sepang and may beat it on Thursday after his Yamaha improved on acceleration, where the team continues to lag behind the Hondas.

Nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi also praised his Yamaha teammate's consistency, calling it a "strong motivation" for him after trailing in fifth spot, 0.783 seconds behind.

Rossi, who put in 63 laps Wednesday, said he struggled to improve on his lap times

after "paying a high price" for more traction.

Honda rider Pedrosa, chasing his first MotoGP title, said he tried to learn more about his setup, and his timing was hampered as one bike was under repair.

His rookie teammate Marc Marquez continued to impress, finishing fourth fastest 0.710 seconds behind Lorenzo after "trying many things" to better understand "the reaction of the bike with me".

British rider Cal Crutchlow broke up the dominance of the big teams by placing third, 0.625 seconds off the pace.

But the Ducatis of Andrea Dovizioso and Nicky Hayden continued to lag behind at eighth and ninth respectively, both about 1.5 seconds off the pace.

The team's Dutch test rider Michele Pirro worked on a new chassis, according to MotoGP.com, which could be the game-changer Ducati needs before the season-opening race in five weeks.

The second test session at Sepang ends Thursday.

Tennis: Djokovic, Federer close in on Dubai showdown

DUBAI (AFP) - Novak Djokovic, the world number one, and Roger Federer, the defending champion, moved nearer to a showdown in Saturday's final when both raced into the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open.

Federer set the pace by getting there in only 71 minutes against Marcel Granollers, the world number 34 from Spain, with Djokovic taking just 90 minutes to get past another Spaniard, Roberto Bautista-Agut, the world number 55.

Djokovic applied constant pressure with his speedy court coverage and the weight and angles of his ground strokes, and might have won in under an hour had he not lapsed briefly in the second set, let-

ting Bautista Agut back into it.

Djokovic's match confirmed the importance, even for the best player in the world, to keep his mind pinned down till the end.

Djokovic now plays Andrea Seppi, the seventh seeded Italian, whose elegance off the ground may punish any further lapses more severely.

Federer will follow Djokovic with a match against Nikolay Davydenko, the former world number three who ousted the sixth seeded Janko Tipsarevic, and followed it with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) victory over Victor Hanesu, of Romania.

Federer has a likely semifinal with Tomas Berdych, his Wimbledon conqueror of two

years ago, who overcame jet-lag, an umpire's warning, and a difficult first set against Germany's Tobias Kamke before calling for changes to the time limit rule.

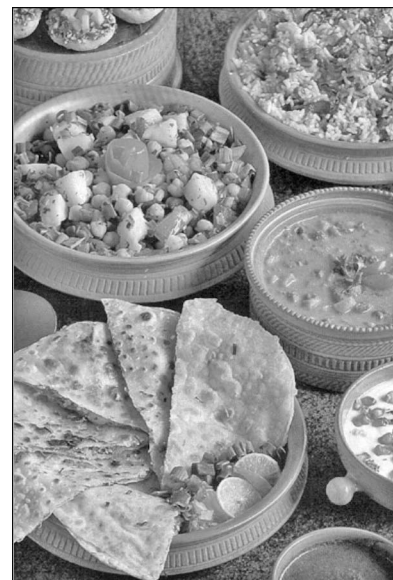
Berdych emerged relieved and disgruntled after surviving 7-5, 6-1 against the world number 90, apparently under pressure from multiple sources.

One of them was the new 25-second time rule, which reduces by five seconds the permitted pause between rallies. clock. Simple as that."

Berdych plays Dmitry Tursunov of Russia but another Russian, Mikhail Youzhny, the eighth seed, was beaten.

His conqueror was Daniel Brands, six feet five inches tall, with an imposing net game, who upset the seedings in the Gulf for the second time this year, having reached the semis in Doha.

Brands now faces Juan Martin del Potro, the fourth-seeded former US Open champion, whose 6-4, 6-4 win over Somdev Devvarman, the Indian returning after many months out with injury, received rather modest acclaim.



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LAKE FOREST - Chicago Bears offensive tackle J'Marcus Webb was arrested for possession of marijuana. According to KFVS-TV, Webb was arrested by a Pulaski County deputy on Sunday night. He paid \$500 of a \$5,000 bond and was released on Monday. He is set to appear in court in March. "We are aware of the recent arrest of J'Marcus Webb in Pulaski County, Illinois," the team said in a statement on Wednesday. "We are currently gathering information to learn more about the circumstances surrounding the arrest." Webb, a seventh-round pick in the 2010 NFL Draft, played at left tackle the past two seasons, starting in all 32 games.

Boxing: Argentina's Revenco defends WBA flyweight title



KAWASAKI (AFP) - Argentina's Juan Carlos Revenco achieved a unanimous points decision over Japan's Masayuki Kuroda to defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight title on Wednesday.

Two judges scored it 117-111, while the other judge counted it 116-112 in favour of the defending champion.

It was Revenco's third defence of the title since he defeated Jean Piero Perez of

Venezuela by a knockout to become the interim champion in June 2011.

The 29-year-old Revenco, who became the full champion after his second defence, improved his record to 30 wins, including 16 KOs, against one defeat.

It was the first attempt at a world title for Kuroda, ranked ninth in the WBA, who saw his record reduced to 21 wins, including 13 KOs, against four defeats and two draws.

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Golf: After Tiger test, McIlroy defends landmark title

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (AFP) - Rory McIlroy, fresh off a private one-on-one match-play showdown with Tiger Woods, starts defending the Honda Classic title on today, a win that first put him atop the rankings.

Northern Ireland's McIlroy held off a closing charge by Woods last year to claim the \$6 million US PGA Tour event, which launched him to World No. 1 for the first time.

After falling behind England's Luke Donald, McIlroy took possession of the top ranking with a victory at the PGA Championship last August and has been World No. 1 ever since.



McIlroy has had a disappointing start to the 2013 season, missing the cut in his January debut in Abu Dhabi and losing in the first round at last week's World Golf Championships Match Play Championship.

World No. 2 Woods also lost in his WGC opener, prompting golf's most popular stars to book a private date last Sunday at Medalist, a nearby course where Woods is a member.

Woods won the first 18-hole match and McIlroy took the second in what he described as "speed golf" on a course he had never played before.

With exchanges of text messages, McIlroy has tried to learn from 14-time major champion Woods, who will resume his pursuit of the record 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus at the Masters in April.

Woods fired a final-round 62 last year but still could not catch McIlroy, who says he is less concerned about a switch in equipment than he is working on his own swing.

"It's more about how I'm swinging the club. That's the real concern," McIlroy said. "It was a little bit mental but it was more physical."

McIlroy also figures he has plenty of time to pull his game into peak form.

"I'm only two tournaments into the season," McIlroy said. "I've still got 20 more."

McIlroy is paired with South Africa's Ernie Els, the reigning British Open champion, and American Mark Wilson for the first two rounds.

Woods, who won his first US PGA event of the season at Torrey Pines after missing the cut at Abu Dhabi as well, will play alongside fellow American Dustin Johnson and Germany's Martin Kaymer.

Football: Drogba gets Euro clearance, Lazio fined

NYON (AFP) - Didier Drogba will be allowed to play in Galatasaray's Champions League clash against Schalke after the German club had their objections over his eligibility thrown out by UEFA on Wednesday.

Schalke, who came away from Istanbul with a 1-1 draw in the first leg of their last 16 clash, believed that the transfer of the former Chelsea striker from Shanghai Shenhua to the Turkish side was completed after the registration deadline.

But the European governing body said that the deal was completed according to the rules.

The second leg of the tie takes place in Germany on March 12.

Lazio were fined 40,000 euros and ordered to play their next two home games in Europe behind closed doors after their fans were accused of throwing fireworks and dis-

playing racist behaviour in their Europa League against Borussia Moenchengladbach on February 21.

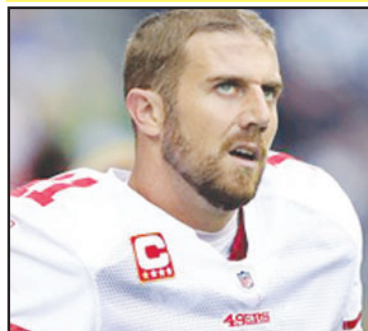
The Italians will play Stuttgart on March 14 behind closed doors as well as their next home tie.

Meanwhile, Paris Saint-Germain striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was banned for two European matches after being sent off in the dying moments of his team's Champions League 2-1 win at Valencia.

The big Swede will miss the second leg on March 6 as well as the first leg of the quarter-final should PSG qualify.

Turkish side Fenerbahce must play their next Europa League home clash against Victoria Plzen on March 14 behind closed doors after their fans were charged with setting off and throwing fireworks in the match against Bate Borisov.

NFL: Chiefs set to obtain Smith from 49ers - reports



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Two decades after NFL legend Joe Montana left the San Francisco 49ers for Kansas City, another star quarterback -- Alex Smith -- is set to leave the 49ers and join the Chiefs, according to reports.

The NFL Network, ESPN

and Fox Sports all reported Wednesday that the 49ers have agreed to send Smith to the Chiefs in exchange for a second-round pick in this year's NFL Draft and a 2014 selection.

No trades can become official until the league reopens transactions on March 12 but the deal makes sense for the Chiefs, who are in need of a quarterback, and for the 49ers, who finished last season with two signal callers.

The 49ers, who saw four-time Super Bowl champion Joe Montana depart after 14 seasons to play his final two NFL campaigns with the Chiefs before retiring at age 38, found Smith expendable after the rise

of Colin Kaepernick.

Smith led the 49ers into the playoffs in the 2011 season and had the team in top form last year until a concussion sidelined him.

Kaepernick moved into the starting job and kept it even after Smith was healthy, leading the 49ers into their first Super Bowl since 1994, although San Francisco lost 34-31 to the Baltimore Ravens.

Smith, who is due \$7.5 million next season in the last year of his contract, would figure to replace Matt Cassel, the Chiefs quarterback who is expected to be cut after the deal is completed.

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NBA: Balanced attack lifts Pacers past Warriors



David West #21 of the Indiana Pacers back up to the hoop

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - The Indiana Pacers won their fifth-consecutive game Tuesday by beating the Golden State Warriors 108-97 behind a 28-point effort by David West.

Paul George finished with 21 points and 11 boards and George Hill had 23 points and six assists for the Pacers, who halted Golden State's modest win streak at three National Basketball Association games.

Roy Hibbert finished with 13 points, nine rebounds and five blocks for the Pacers, who have won 10 of their last 12 games and have posted five straight wins in a row twice this month.

Indiana had four players in double-figure scoring Tuesday including Hibbert, who

was ejected in the fourth quarter after getting into a pushing match with the Warriors' David Lee before players from both teams joined the fray.

"No punches were thrown. It was just two teams competing hard. Two teams trying to win," Lee said.

Pacers forward Danny Granger, who is still trying to shake off the rust of a long layoff, made his home debut on Tuesday, scoring five points on one-for-seven shooting.

Granger had been sidelined all season with a knee problem and made his anticipated season debut Saturday in a 90-72 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Stephen Curry scored a game-high 38 points, but also had a half dozen of Golden State's 20 turnovers at the Bankers Life Fieldhouse arena.

Lee finished with 12 points and 12 boards in the loss.

Indiana has won four straight in a row at home and is an impressive 24-5 as host.

Golden State is in the midst of a five-game road trip. The Warriors are 15-17 away, and will also visit New York, Boston and Philadelphia on their eastern swing.

Golf: Top stars battle car crash injuries at HSBC Women's

SINGAPORE (AFP) - A car crash in Thailand has left top golf stars battling injuries at this week's HSBC Women's Champions -- and could help Tseng Yani extend her long stint as world number one.

Former winner Ai Miyazato, the world number nine, and American star Paula Creamer are both in question for the \$1.4 million showpiece in Singapore after they were involved in a multi-vehicle smash following the Honda LPGA Thailand.

Creamer, Miyazato and Suzann Pettersen of Norway were en route to Bangkok airport when they were caught in the five-car accident, and needed treatment for minor injuries after arriving in Singapore.

pore.

Creamer cut short her appearance in Wednesday's program and went for extra treatment, while Miyazato did not play the warm-up event at the par-72 Sentosa Golf Club, a tournament official said.

The mishap threatens to rob the tournament, featuring most of the world's best players, of two big names, and could potentially play into the hands of world number one Tseng, who is clinging to a narrow lead after 107 weeks at the top.

The "Pride of Taiwan", winless for nearly a year, has started the season impressively with back-to-back top-three finishes. But she insisted staying at number one was not her

main concern.

Tseng admitted she had burdened herself with "too much expectation" last season when a run of missed cuts, which contrasted with her seven titles in 2011, left her struggling emotionally.

Tseng now has a slim 1.35 average points lead over South Korea's Choi Na-Yeon, who will also tee it up on Thursday on Sentosa, a wealthy resort island in tropical Singapore.

Missing from the field is 25th-ranked New Zealand amateur Lydia Ko, 15, who has become the most talked-about player on tour after winning last year's Canadian Women's Open and coming close at the season opener in Australia.

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